

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 097781 TOSEC 040099
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY NEA:MSTERNER:TH
APPROVED BY NEA:HHAUNDERS
AMBASSADOR-AT-LARGE ATHERTON (SU
S) S/S-O:TMARTIN

-----048596 171929Z /43

O 171907Z APR 78 ZFF6
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE
USDEL SECRETARY AIRCRAFT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 097781 TOSEC 040099

NODIS
FROM ATHERTON AND SAUNDERS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, IS, US, XF

SUBJECT: ISRAELI CABINET DISCUSSION OF RESOLUTION 242

1. YOU MAY HAVE SEEN SOMETHING OF PRESS SPECULATION OVER THE WEEKEND THAT THE ISRAELIS HAVE COME UP WITH A "NEW POSITION" ON THE QUESTION OF THE APPLICABILITY OF RESOLUTION 242 TO THE WEST BANK/GAZA. WE NOW HAVE THE TEXT OF AN OFFICIAL STATEMENT ON THIS SUBJECT FOLLOWING CABINET DISCUSSION YESTERDAY AMID PRESS REPORTING THAT THERE ARE NOW SIGNIFICANTLY DIFFERING INTERPRETATIONS OF WHAT THE STATEMENT MEANS AMONG CABINET MINISTERS.

2. TEXT OF OFFICIAL CABINET STATEMENT IS AS FOLLOWS:

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 097781 TOSEC 040099

"IN THE CABINET MEETING TODAY THE FOREIGN MINISTER SURVEYED THE INFORMATION GUIDELINES SENT TO ISRAEL'S EMBASSIES ABROAD. THEY WERE THEN DEBATED. THESE GUIDELINES SAY THAT RESOLUTION 242 WILL SERVE AS A BASIS FOR NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND ALL NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES-- EGYPT, JORDAN, SYRIA AND LEBANON.

"ISRAEL'S POSITION IS THAT THE PEACE PLAN, WHICH INCLUDES ADMINISTRATIVE AUTONOMY IN JUDEA, SAMARIA AND GAZA, IS COMPATIBLE WITH THE PRINCIPLES OF UN SECURITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION 242. IF THE ARAB COUNTRIES RAISE COUNTER-PROPOSALS WE WILL DISCUSS THEM WITH A PRACTICAL APPROACH; JUST AS WE EXPECT THEM TO DO WITH OUR PROPOSAL. UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 242 IS BASED ON NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN COUNTRIES AND ON AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN COUNTRIES, INCLUDING AN AGREEMENT CONCERNING RECOGNIZED AND SAFE BORDERS." END TEXT.

3. IN BACKGROUND REMARKS THE ISRAELI SPOKESMAN IS REPORTED AS SAYING THAT THE CABINET STATEMENT "DOES NOT CONSTITUTE SOMETHING NEW."

4. IN PUBLIC COMMENT DAYAN IS REPORTED TO HAVE DRAWN A DISTINCTION BETWEEN ACCEPTANCE OF THE PRINCIPLE THAT 242 APPLIES TO ALL THE COUNTRIES WITH WHICH ISRAEL WAS IN CONFLICT IN 1967 (INCLUDING JORDAN) AND THE FUTURE OF THE WEST BANK. HE IS REPORTED AS SAYING 242 CALLS FOR "NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN COUNTRIES ONLY" AND THEREFORE THESE NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD NOT INCLUDE DISCUSSIONS OF THE FUTURE OF SAMARIA AND JUDEA. "ONE SHOULD VERY CAREFULLY AVOID FIXING RESOLUTION 242 AS A FRAMEWORK FOR
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 097781 TOSEC 040099

NEGOTIATIONS ABOUT JUDEA AND SAMARIA AND THE GAZA STRIP."

5. COMMENT: THIS OBVIOUSLY DOES NOT CONSTITUTE THE BREAKTHROUGH WE ARE LOOKING FOR. OUR INTERPRETATION IS THAT THE CABINET HAS ENGAGED CHIEFLY IN A WORD EXERCISE IN AN ATTEMPT TO PROJECT THEIR POSITION IN A SOMEWHAT MORE FAVORABLE LIGHT AND TO DISARM PUBLIC CRITICISM. AT THE SAME TIME DAYAN SEEMS TO BE MANEUVERING FOR SOME INCREASED ELBOW ROOM AND WE THINK IT IMPORTANT, IN BOTH OUR PUBLIC HANDLING OF THE MATTER AND OUR CONTACTS WITH THE EGYPTIANS NOT TO APPEAR TO BE DISCOUNTING THE STATEMENT TOTALLY. WE ARE TAKING THE GENERAL LINE HERE THAT WE WILL HAVE TO BE IN CONTACT WITH THE ISRAELIS TO BE CERTAIN WE HAVE THE FULL IMPLICATIONS OF THE STATEMENT, AT THE SAME TIME POINTING OUT ON A BACKGROUND BASIS TO JOURNALISTS THAT THE WAY THE FOREIGN MINISTER HAS EXPLAINED IT, THERE DOES NOT SEEM TO BE A SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN THE ISRAELI POSITION ON THE FACE OF IT.

6. WE THOUGHT THESE COMMENTS MIGHT BE USEFUL IN CASE SUBJECT COMES UP IN YOUR MEETING WITH KAMEL TONIGHT (EGYPTIANS HAVE ASKED US TO SUPPLY TEXT OF CABINET

ANNOUNCEMENT WHICH WE ARE DOING). YOU MAY WISH TO CONVEY
OUR ANALYSIS THAT DAYAN SEEMS TO BE MANEUVERING AMONG HIS
COLLEAGUES TOWARD A BETTER ISRAELI POSITION ON THIS VITAL
POINT, AND EGYPTIANS MIGHT TAILOR THEIR PUBLIC STATEMENTS
TO GIVE THAT PROCESS A CHANCE. CHRISTOPHER

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CABINET, TOSEC, POLICIES, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, WEST BANK, GAZA, MEETINGS, UNSC RESOLUTIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, CAT-B
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE097781
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: MSTERNER:TH
Enclosure: FOR ATHERTON AND SAUNDERS
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: P840166-2020, N780004-0491
Format: TEL
From: STATE NEA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780448/aaaaboxs.tel
Line Count: 121
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 084988ac-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 aug 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2942048
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ISRAELI CABINET DISCUSSION OF RESOLUTION 242
TAGS: PGOV, IS, US, XF
To: SECRETARY CAIRO MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/084988ac-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014